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June 11th,

Dr. MORTON, President, in the Chair.

Mr. P. A. Browne expressed his views in relation to the peculiarities of the hair in man and other mammalia, and more particularly on the absence of a central canal in the hair of certain races of the former, on which he proposes to found specific differences. After some conversation among the members on the organization of hair, Mr. Browne offered a resolution that a committee be appointed to make microscopic investigations on the subject, which was adopted, and the following committee appointed, viz: P. A. Browne, Prof. Haldeman, and Dr. Morton.

June 18th.

Dr. MORTON, President, in the Chair.

A letter was read from the Royal Society of London, dated Somerset House, March 20th, 1850, returning acknowledgments for recent numbers of the Proceedings of the Academy.

Mr. Cassin read a paper entitled "Descriptions of new species of the genera Vidua, Hyphantornis, Hirundo, Atticora, Acanthylis, and Cypselus, specimens of which are in the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia," which was referred to the following committee: Drs. Wilson, Townsend, and Heermann.

Mr. Moss read a description, with a figure, of a new Carpolite from Arkansas, which was referred to the following committee: Dr. Bridges, Mr. Conrad, and Dr. Hallowell.

June 25th.

Dr. MORTON, President, in the Chair.

The committee to whom was referred Mr. Cassin's descriptions of Birds in the collection of the Academy, read at last meeting, reported in favor of publication in the Proceedings.

Descriptions of new species of Birds, specimens of which are in the collections of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia.

BY JOHN CASSIN.

Vidua Verreauxii, nobis. Vieill. Ois. Chant. pl. 37?

♂. *Form.*—Generally resembling Vidua paradisea, (Linn.) Swains. B. of W. Af. I, pl. 11, but is larger, the two longest tail feathers taper gradually to the end from near the middle of the feather, the outer (or upper) webs are very narrow, and they present but a slight degree of convexity when compared with those of V. paradisea. In the two specimens which I am now about to describe, the bills and feet are decidedly larger and stronger.

Dimensions.—Total length of skin from tip of bill to end of tail 15½ inches Wing 3 1-10. Tail 12 inches.

Colors.—Wide collar on posterior part of the neck (or nape) and the belly pale fulvous. Breast rich glossy chestnut, thighs pale buff with some black feathers. Upper part of the head, throat, under tail coverts, and all remaining parts of the body black. Shorter tail feathers slightly edged with white at their tips.

♀. Without long tail feathers, whole plumage cinereous, streaked with brownish black, pale beneath.

Hab.—Abyssinia.

Obs.—Two males and one female of this species, now in the collection of this Academy, have recently been received from M. Jules Verreaux, of Paris, in a note accompanying which, he expresses his conviction that they are distinct from the common species, (V. paradisea.) Upon examination and comparison with eighteen specimens of the latter, I entirely coincide with M. Verreaux, and have accordingly described it, hoping he will accept my specific name as a slight tribute to his great accomplishments as a naturalist, and his enthusiastic attachment to our favorite science.

The species now described bears a strong general resemblance to the common species, but may readily be distinguished by the different shape of the long tail feathers. In the two males now before me the nuchal collar is pale, in which respect they differ from the V. paradisea, and also from the plate given by Vieillot, which I have little doubt, however, is intended to represent the present bird. For the purpose of comparing the general appearance of the two species, the plates of Vieillot and Swainson above cited are sufficient for consultation.

Hyphantornis badius, nobis.

♂. *Form.*—Small for a typical species, wings medium, first quill very short, almost spurious, fourth and fifth longest and nearly equal, tail rather short.

Dimensions.—Total length of skin from tip of bill to end of tail about 5 inches, wing 3, tail 2 inches.

Colors.—Head above and mask including eyes and extending to the breast, black, middle of the belly and tail coverts above and below bright yellow, all other parts of the body bright reddish brown, (or burnt sienna brown.) Wing feathers brownish black, externally with narrow edges of greenish yellow, and with broad internal edges of pale yellow very conspicuous upon viewing the wing from below. Tail greenish yellow.

Hab.—Fazogloa, Eastern Africa.

Obs.—A small species related to H. rubiginosa, (Rüpp.) and perhaps to H. castaneofusca, (Less.) but appears to be quite distinct. Several specimens from the Rivoli collection are now in the collection of the Academy, some of them are labelled "P. mordoreus," which I have not succeeded in finding.

This bird may possibly be the adult of one of the plain plumaged species described by Dr. Smith or Mr. Ruppel.

Atticora hamigera, nobis.

Form.—Wings long, with the first primary longest and curved, several of the shorter primaries slightly sinuated at their points on the inner webs, tips of secondaries emarginate. External edge of the first primary (or edge of the wing) furnished with a row of hooks or reversed bristles very obvious to the touch and discernible with the naked eye. Tail long and broad, deeply emarginate. Legs slender.

Dimensions—Total length of skin from tip of bill to end of tail 5¾ in. Wing 4 4-10. Tail 3½ inches.

Color.—Entire plumage fine black with a green gloss, inferior surface of the wings and tail paler and without lustre.

Hab.—Port Natal, Eastern Africa.

Obs.—Four specimens of this species are in the collection of the Academy, several of which from the Rivoli collection were labelled "Hirundo velox, Vieill." It is not the bird figured by Le Vaillant, which belongs to another genus, and is not therefore the species intended by Vieillot.

Cypselus leucopygialis, nobis.

Form.—Robust, wings long, exceeding the tail, primaries slightly curved with the second longest. Tail rather short, truncate, scarcely emarginate.

Dimensions.—From tip of bill to end of tail 5½ inches. Wing 5½. Tail 2 inches.

Colors.—Rump white, throat pale, nearly white; back and upper surface of the wings and tail brownish black with a green gloss, head and entire under parts dull sooty brown. Inferior tail coverts with a slight subterminal black band and minutely tipped with white.

Hab.—Sumatra ?

Obs.—This species resembles the Cypselus affinis, Gray, but is much larger. It is quite distinct from that or any other species known to me. One specimen only is in the museum of the Academy, which bears a label having Sumatra as the locality, and was received from Europe in a collection sent by Mr. Edward Wilson.

Acanthylis cinereocauda, nobis.

Form.—Wings very long, with the second primary longest. Tail rather short with the feathers broad and the terminal acute points conspicuous, upper tail coverts long and ample.

Dimensions. Total length of skin from tip of bill to end of tail 4 inches. Wings 4 8-10. Tail 1 3-10.

Colors.—Rump, upper and under tail coverts and tail above and below pale brownish cinereous, or mouse color; shafts of the tail feathers black. All other parts of the plumage brownish black, deeper and with a greenish lustre above, dull and paler below.

Hab.—South America.

Obs.—The species now described resembles Acanthylis spinicauda, (Temm.) Pl. Enl. 726, but may readily be distinguished by the entirely black plumage of the under parts and by the pale color of the tail. Though not so large a bird as the *A. spinicauda*, its wings are longer. Two specimens are in the museum of the Academy, one of which, sent from Paris by Mr. Edward Wilson, is marked as coming from South America.

Hirundo scapularis, nobis.

Form.—That of a typical Hirundo. Wings rather long, first primary longest, nearly all the primaries with oblique terminal indentations, secondaries emarginate.

Dimensions.—Total length of skin from tip of bill to end of tail 5½ inches. Wing 4 3-10. Tail 3 inches.

Colors.—Scapulars and inferior wing coverts white. Entire plumage above, including wings and tail, black, with a fine violet lustre, darkest upon the head, beneath white with a yellowish tinge, shafts of inferior tail coverts black, feathers on the back white at their bases, some feathers on the breast black at their bases.

Hab.—Eastern Africa.

Obs.—Appears to be allied to *H. leucosoma*, Swainson, but is larger, and although the scapulars are conspicuously white, it has no spot on the wing. One specimen only in the Rivoli collection.

The committee on Mr. Moss' description of a new Carpolite from Arkansas, reported in favor of publication in the Proceedings.

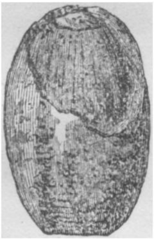
Description of a new Carpolite from Arkansas.

By Theodore F. Moss.

Trigonocarpum Woodruffii.

This very perfect specimen of a Carpolite was found in a fissure filled with clay, in the clay state, ten miles north of Little Rock, Arkansas, and forty miles east of the coal formation, where it is probably in place. It is now converted into iron stone.

The figure represents the fruit in its natural size, showing the pore for the passage of the embryo at the base. The epicarp is three-lobed, and therefore the fruit belongs to the Monocotyledonous tribe of plants, and is about one-eighth of an inch in thickness.



The inner part or endocarp is striated from the circumference of the pore (hilum), for the passage of the embryo.

I have called the specimen *Trigonocarpum Woodruffii*, in honor of William E. Woodruff, Esq., of Little Rock, a gentleman who has done much to advance the knowledge of the mineral wealth of Arkansas.

ELECTION.

Capt. William McMichael, of New York, was elected a *Correspondent* of the Academy.